

Monotheism - Belief in only 1 god/deity

- *Christianity, Islam, Judaism
- *Covenant, law and prophets were 3 aspects of religious tradition
- *May include plural concepts of the divine, but only 1 deity
- *Greek derived (monos = single, theos = god)
- *Came about from many nations using only 1 gods
- *Substance monotheism = many gods are different forms of a single, underlying substance
- *Trinitarian monotheism = belief in one god who is 3 distinct persons
- *Some base this religious ideal on the 10 commandments

Polytheism - Belief in and worship of many gods

- *Typical form of religion during bronze and iron age
- *Persists into the modern period in traditions of Hinduism and Buddhism
- *Polytheists do not always worship all the gods equally, but can be henotheists, specializing in the worship of one particular deity
- *Kathenotheists - worshipping different deities at different times
- *gods of music, arts, science, farming
- *Examples: Love goddess, water deity, death deity, culture hero, creator deity